

21 March 2017

The U.S. Air Force Academy Band  
520 Otis Street  
Peterson AFB CO 80914-1620

Dear Candidate,

Thank you for inquiring about auditioning for a drum set/percussion position with the United States Air Force. This musical audition will be conducted in two parts: (a) a prescreening by e-mailing Dropbox links to MP3 files (encoded at 320kbps for best quality) and a one page résumé and (b) a live audition for those selected from the initial screening. Details concerning both prescreen submission and the live auditions are attached. Please review these requirements carefully to determine if you are prepared to take the audition at this time. The following information outlines the requirements and important dates.

Jun 1, 2017    Deadline for receipt of all musical prescreening materials and résumé.

Jun 15, 2017    All candidates will be notified whether or not he/she is invited to participate in the live auditions.

Aug 18, 2017    Live audition in Colorado Springs, CO at Peterson AFB

Many of your initial questions concerning the USAF enlisted military experience can be answered by browsing <https://www.airforce.com/>. If you have specific questions pertaining to salary, see <https://www.airforce.com/careers/pay-and-benefits>.

In order to attend the live audition, you must meet with the United States Air Force recruiter in your area to be pre-qualified to attend basic training. Our office will initiate this visit after we find you musically qualified. You must return a memorandum from your recruiter visit to our offices in order to attend the audition. In addition to passing the musical audition, applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 39 and meet all Air Force weight, medical, financial, law, and citizenship requirements.

Thank you for contacting the United States Air Force Academy Band regarding our upcoming audition. We hope you have a great experience during this process and wish you the best of luck. Please let me know if I can help you with anything. Do not hesitate to contact me directly at (719) 556-9961 or email [usafabauditions@gmail.com](mailto:usafabauditions@gmail.com) if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

//SIGNED//

JASON R. CROWE, MSgt, USAF  
The USAF Academy Band  
NCOIC, Auditions

\*Qualified applicants may be assigned to another USAF band depending on the greatest need of the Air Force.

Attachments:

1. Audition Requirements (pre-screen)
2. USAF Bands Frequently Asked Questions



## ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR PERCUSSION/DRUM SET Classical and Commercial Skills Required

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### PRE-SCREENING REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

- 1) Résumé
- 2) Demo recording demonstrating musical versatility on percussion and drumset. Specifically, recordings must include:
  - a) The following etude excerpt and orchestral excerpts (*please refer to bracketed excerpts as provided by the Academy Band*):  
SNARE DRUM: “Etude No. 1” from Douze études pour caisse-claire – Jacques Delécluse  
XYLOPHONE: Porgy and Bess Overture – Gershwin  
GLOCKENSPIEL: The Magic Flute: Act I, Finale – Mozart  
TIMPANI: Symphony No. 9, mvt I, coda – Beethoven
  - b) A two-minute four-mallet marimba solo (or two-minute excerpt of a solo)
  - c) Drum set performances in the following styles:
    - a. Up-tempo swing at Half Note = 130 or faster. Include trading 4s with yourself or ensemble
    - b. Samba. Include trading 4s with yourself or ensemble
    - c. Brushes (any style)
    - d. Pop/Rock
    - e. Medium Swing

It is preferred that samples include accompaniment with a band/combo, or with “music minus one”-style tracks.

***All résumés and pre-screening materials must be received by June 1, 2017***

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**LIVE Audition Date: August 18, 2017 at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO**

*Each candidate will be notified of results by June 15, 2017. Live audition is by invitation only.*

**E-mail Dropbox links to MP3 files and Résumé to:**

**usafabandauditions@gmail.com In the subject line please use this format:**

**Last name\_Percussion\_18August 2017**

Call (719) 556-9961/9916, e-mail [usafabandauditions@gmail.com](mailto:usafabandauditions@gmail.com), or  
visit our website at [www.usafacademyband.af.mil](http://www.usafacademyband.af.mil) for further  
information. The United States Air Force is an Equal Opportunity  
Employer.



# ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR PERCUSSION/DRUM SET Classical and Commercial Skills Required

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## LIVE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS INCLUDE:

### DRUM SET

#### Jazz (with the Academy Band Falconaires)

1. Take the "A" Train
2. Gettin' to It... Finally

#### Pop/Rock/Funk (with the Academy Band combo)

1. Sight Reading

#### Jazz Combo Sight Reading

### RUDIMENTAL SNARE DRUM

(To be played traditional grip on rope drum)

1. USAFA Band Cadence No.1 (2/4)
2. USAFA Band Cadence No. 2 (6/8)

### SOLOS—Marimba

1. "Tempo di Bourrée" from Bach's Violin Partita #1 in B Minor

### EXCERPTS—Xylophone

1. Appalachian Spring - Copland
2. Porgy and Bess Overture - Gershwin
3. Ein Volksfest – Shostakovich/arr. Rembach

### Glockenspiel

1. Magic Flute: Act 1, Finale - Mozart
2. The Sorcerer's Apprentice - Dukas

### Vibraphone

1. West Side Story: Symphonic Dances - Bernstein

### Snare Drum

1. Capriccio Espagnol, mvt. 4 – Rimsky-Korsakov
2. Lt. Kije, mvt 1 - Prokofiev
3. Scheherazade, mvt. 3 and mvt. 4- Rimsky-Korsakov

### Tambourine

1. Carnival Overture - Dvorak

### Cymbals

Be prepared to demonstrate crashes of various lengths at various dynamic.

### Timpani

1. New England Triptych, mvt. 1 – Schuman
2. Symphony #4, mvt. 1 – Tchaikovsky

**\* Sight reading may also be requested on any instrument.\***

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**Each candidate will be notified of results by June 15, 2017. Live audition is by invitation only.**

**E-mail Dropbox links to MP3 files and Résumé to: [usafabandauditions@gmail.com](mailto:usafabandauditions@gmail.com)**

**In the subject line please use this format Last name\_Percussion\_18August 2017**

Call (719) 556-9961/9916, e-mail [usafabandauditions@gmail.com](mailto:usafabandauditions@gmail.com), or  
visit our website at [www.usafacademyband.af.mil](http://www.usafacademyband.af.mil) for further information.  
The United States Air Force is an Equal Opportunity Employer



## ANNOUNCES AN OPENING FOR PERCUSSION/DRUM SET

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### LIST OF INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED FOR LIVE AUDITION:

**MARIMBA:** Adams five-octave “Alpha” model (MAHA50)

**XYLOPHONE:** Musser M-50 (height adjustment blocks available, candidates are also welcome to bring their own blocks)

**GLOCKENSPIEL:** Fall Creek K-100 (will be set on height-adjustable x-stand)

**VIBRAPHONE:** Musser “Piper” model (M-58)

**DRUM SET:** 4-piece kit; 20” kick/12” and 14” toms; one ride, two crashes.

**FIELD DRUM:** Cooperman sling-worn rope drum

Though unlikely, the USAF Academy Band reserves the right to substitute different instruments for any of those listed, without prior notice to candidates.

The Academy Band will also provide a pro-quality concert snare drum, tambourine, and crash cymbals, though candidates are welcome to bring and use their own.

Candidates will be given an opportunity before each round to adjust instrument heights and placements as necessary.

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### PERFORMANCE NOTES:

#### **REGARDING SONGS WITH JAZZ COMBO:**

Candidates should be familiar with the tune and prepared to take instruction during the audition on performance structure (intros/endings, solos, etc.)

#### **REGARDING RUDIMENTAL CADENCES:**

Candidates will use a sling-worn rope drum, provided by the Academy Band. CANDIDATES WILL BE REQUIRED TO USE TRADITIONAL GRIP. Candidates may be asked to loop cadences for several repetitions. No marching will be required.

# DOUZE ETUDES

pour Caisse-Claire

TWELVE STUDIES

for the Drum

ZWÖLF ETÜDEN

für die Trommel

DOCE ESTUDIOS

para Tambor militar

JACQUES DELECLUSE

Soliste au Théâtre National de l'Opéra  
et à la Société des Concerts du Conservatoire

1

$\text{♩} = 76$

The musical score for Study 1 consists of a single staff with a tempo of 76 beats per minute. The piece is written in 6/8 time and features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and triplets. Dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *f* (forte), with some sections marked *p* (piano) or *p sub.* (piano subito). Articulations include accents, slurs, and trills. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with some measures containing multiple notes. The piece concludes with a *mf* dynamic and a final note.

*mf* *p*

*mf* *f* *p*

*f* *p*

*f* *p subito* *f*

*p* *cresc.* *f*

*p* *mf* *f*

*f* *p*

*p sub.* *p*

Un poco rit. Tempo

*mf*

Percussion: Xylophone

# Gershwin: Porgy and Bess Overture

*Allegro con brio*

The musical score is written for a single xylophone part in treble clef. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 2/4. The piece begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a series of eighth-note patterns, many of which are accented (>). The score is divided into six systems. The first system contains two measures. The second system contains two measures. The third system contains two measures, with an 8va (octave up) marking above the final measure. The fourth system contains two measures, with an 8va marking above the first measure. The fifth system contains two measures. The sixth system contains two measures, ending with a double bar line. The notation includes various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

Magic Flute

Allegro (264<sup>th</sup> mesure)

28





# Beethoven — Symphony No. 9

## Timpani

3

507 *a tempo* 1 *rit. a tempo* *p* Viol. I

517 *cresc.*

525 *f* *più f*

531 [S] *ff* *sempre ff* *sempre ff* *tr*

540 *tr* *sf* *ff*

Dimitri Schostakowitsch  
Bearbeitung: Ernst Rembach

Bearbeitung: Ernst Rembach

10

1

學

1

2

1.2x

5

1

2132

104

Sign

6

得

F

2

777

Percussion

# Appalachian Spring

Xylo:

secco

49

ff

sf

# The Sorcerer's Apprentice

## GLOCKENSPIEL

(after a Ballade by Goethe)

18 *crese.* *p détache* *f* *rinf.* *sempre crese.*

19

22 *ff* **Au Mouvt!** **GLOCK.**

23

24 *tr* *tr*

25 *Poco string. A tempo* *20 v*

14 6

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a Glockenspiel. It contains measures 18 through 25. The music is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 18 begins with a 'GLOCK.' marking and a 'p détache' instruction. The melody features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with a crescendo ('crese.') and a fortissimo ('f') dynamic. Measure 19 continues the melody with a 'rinf.' (rinfornzando) instruction. Measure 20 shows a 'sempre crese.' (sempre crescendo) instruction. Measure 21 is a repeat sign. Measure 22 is marked with a double bar line, a 'ff' (fortissimo) dynamic, and the instruction 'Au Mouvt! GLOCK.' (Allegro movement, Glockenspiel). The tempo changes to 'Poco string. A tempo' at measure 25, with a '20 v' (20 variations) marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.



## Tamburo.

## IV. Scena e Canto gitano.

All-gretto.

A Corsi Solo.

quasi Cadenza (I)

Tamburo Solo.

dimin.

Cadenza (II) Violino Solo.

L  
Temp.

a tempo

1

dim.

ppp sempre ppp

pp

10

Bass Drum  
Military Drum  
Triangle  
Cymbals  
Tambourine  
Sleigh Bells

# LIEUTENANT KLJE

Suite Symphonique

I

## THE BIRTH OF KLJE

S. Prokofiev, Op. 60

*Andante assai*

*Gr. op.*

*Doppio movimento*

*Tamb. mil. solo*

*pp*

*pp*

*Allegro, come prima*

*Tamb. mil.*

*pp*

*pp*

*Andante assai*

*pp*

*rit.*



Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov  
Scheherazade, Op. 35

**Tambur piccolo.**

**I. II. tacet.**

**III.**

**Andantino quasi Allegretto.**

24 A 24 B 14 C Viol. I.

*pocchiss. più mosso*

*p* *dim.*

*ppp*

*pocchiss. cresc.*

E 8 F 4

*pp*

4 G 1 2 3 4 5 6

*p*

7 H 4

*p* *f* *p* *f*

**Come prima**

K 6 Lento. Recit. Tempo I.

3 L ob.

9 M 2 5 N 7

*allarg. assai* *a tempo*

0 24 P 4 *poco rit.* *a tempo, scherz.*

*pocchissimo più animato* *ril. molto* *pp*



## Tambur piccolo.

## IV.

Musical score for Tambur piccolo, IV. The score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. It includes dynamic markings *mf cresc.* and *f pp*. The music features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing slurs and accents. The second staff continues the melody, with measures numbered 8 through 15. The third staff shows measures 16 through 18, ending with a large fermata. The fourth staff begins with a measure marked '0' and '16', followed by a series of eighth notes. The fifth staff continues the melody. The sixth staff features a measure marked '1' and 'Q', with a dynamic marking *mf*. The seventh staff includes a measure marked 'R'. The eighth staff begins with a measure marked '15' and 'S', followed by a series of eighth notes. The ninth staff includes a measure marked '3' and 'T', with a dynamic marking *mf dim.* and *pp*. The tenth staff shows measures 6 through 15, ending with a large fermata.

**Tamburino.**

Allegro.

Allegro.

*f* *p* *ff*

A B

3 5

U 1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

*W* Poco più mosso.

*ff* *ff* *ff*

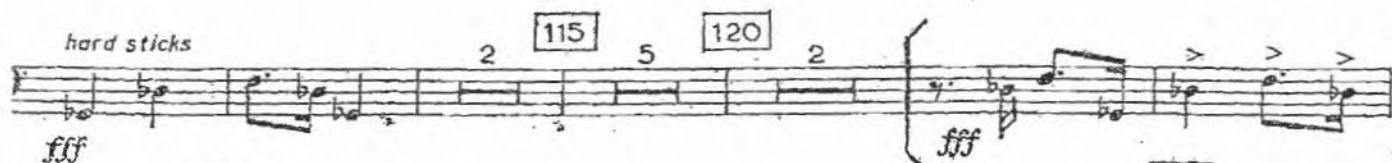
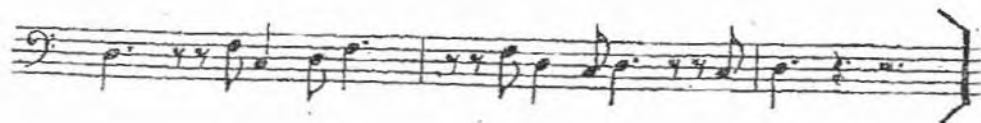
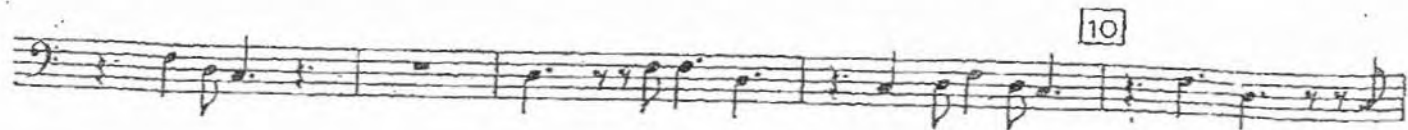
SOTTO.

WILLIAM SCHUMAN  
New England Triptych

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$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 126 - 132$

*b, C, D, F* (unaccompanied Solo)



Tchaikovsky — Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 36

4

*Pauken*

333 *21* *22* *T* *sempre stringendo al* *cresc.*

338 *Allegro con anima* *f cresc.* *ff*

342

346

350 *2* *U* *1* *2* *fff*

357 *3* *4* *5* *6* *7* *8* *f dim.*

Tempo di Bourrée.





# Take The "A" Train

# 1943

by Billy Strayhorn  
arranged by Don Sebesky

DRUMS  
BRIGHT SWING

Handwritten drum score for "Take The 'A' Train". The score is written on ten staves, each representing a different drum part. The notation includes various drum symbols (e.g., H.H. for Hi-Hat, R.C. for Ride Cymbal, S.D. for Snare Drum) and musical notation (e.g., notes, rests, bar lines). The score is divided into sections labeled A through H, with some sections having multiple endings. The tempo is marked "BRIGHT SWING" and the arrangement is by Don Sebesky. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, bar lines, and dynamic markings like "p" (piano) and "mf" (mezzo-forte). It also includes specific drumming instructions like "H.H.", "R.C.", "S.D.", "RUSHED", "TRON. SOLO", "LET RING", "PHILLY JOE RIM SHOT", and "SOLO - HIT HARD". The score ends with a "FILL" section.

# Gettin' To It ... Finally

Jason Crowe, arr. Ryan Janus

DRUMS

STRAIGHT 8THS, "ECM," ♩ = 165

OPT. BASS CADENZA

(DRUMS STOP VERY BAD)

**A** BUSY CYMBALS A LA DESJOHNETTE

4



*mp* (BASS, BONE, BARI)

*SOFT!*

6



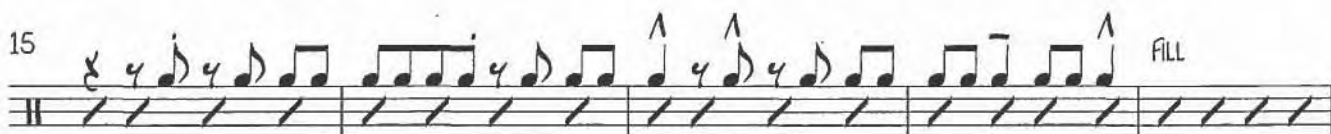
FILL (9 BAR PHRASES)

11



*mf* (ADD BONES, TENORS)

15



FILL

20



*(mf)* (FULL BAND)

24



FILL

**B** color change?

(BONE/TENOR MELODY)

29



*mf*

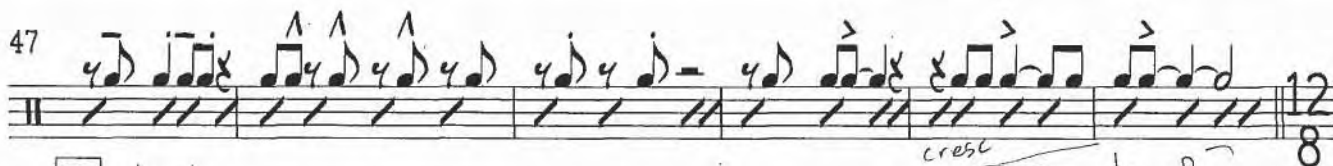
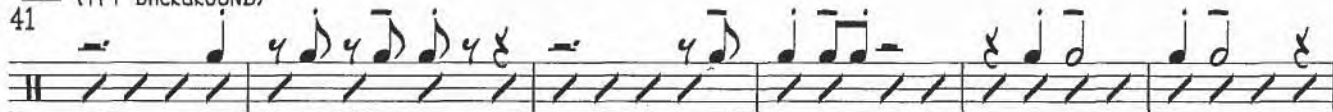
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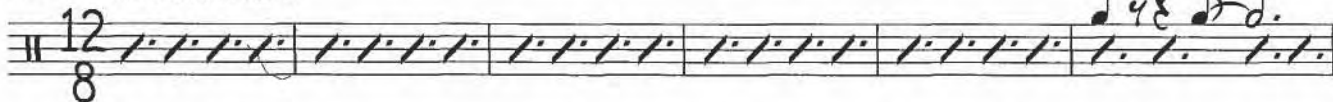
# DRUMS

2

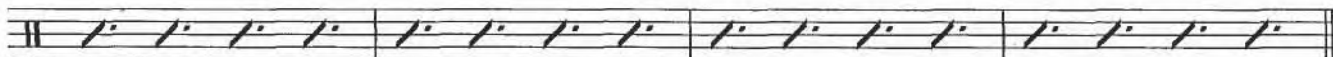
**C** (TPT BACKGROUND)



**D**  $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$   
AFRO-CUBAN 12/8



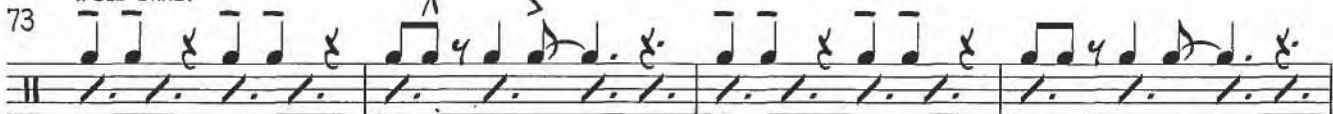
59



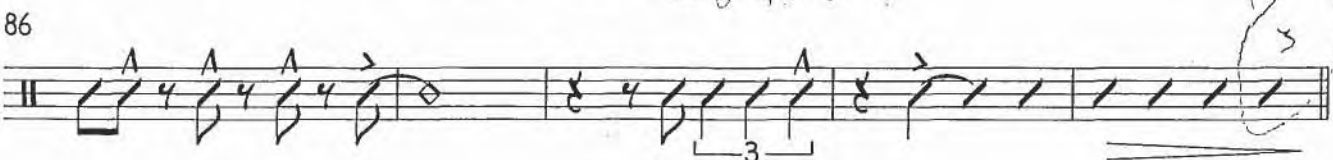
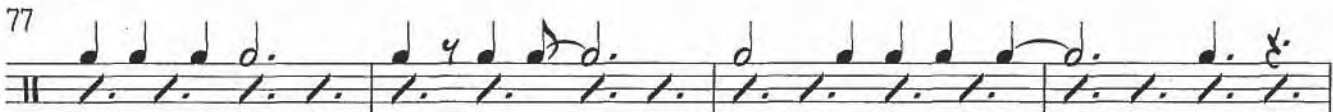
(BONE BACKGROUND)



(FULL BAND)



**f**





# DRUMS

6 **K** ♩ = ♩ (BONE BACKGROUND)

12/8

258

262

*mp* *ff*

*1/2 time*

(FULL BAND)

266

270

**L** ♩ = ♩

274

*mp* *mf*

4/4

280

*ff*

285

FILL

2/4 cadence

10/11/72

(6)

7 7 7 7 (5)

R R L R L R L R L R L R

R L R L R L R L R R L R L L

R L R L R L R L R L R

R L R L R L R

(9)

6/8 CADENCE

LR L R R L R L R R R L R L R L R R L R

LR L R R L R L R L R

FINAL

R R R R R R



## United States Air Force Bands

<http://www.bands.af.mil/>

Contact us: 703-692-8168



### QUALIFICATIONS

#### Do I need a college degree?

Although most Air Force band musicians have earned undergraduate degrees, a college degree is not required to qualify. Candidates are offered positions solely on the basis of a successful audition.

#### Are there physical requirements?

To be considered for a position with an Air Force band you must be between the ages of 18 and 39. Additionally, you must not have a medical condition that would prevent you from enlisting in the United States Air Force. Waivers for medical conditions may be applied for if you do not meet these requirements, but are decided on a case by case basis and no guarantee can be made that they will be granted.

As a member of the Air Force, you must maintain high standards of personal appearance and physical fitness. You will be required to pass bi-annual physical fitness evaluations and will be subject to random drug urinalysis testing at any time during your enlistment. Prior to your audition, you will be asked to demonstrate that you fall within the Air Force maximum allowable [weight standards](#).

### AUDITION PROCEDURES

#### How do I find out about openings?

Current openings and audition requirements are posted on the USAF Bands website:

<http://www.bands.af.mil/careers/> and Facebook, and are advertised in professional trade journals.

#### How do I qualify for an audition?

**Step One:** Send required materials to the audition coordinator for the advertised vacancy. A committee will review the materials and determine whether an applicant demonstrates the professional musical skills necessary to warrant a live audition with an Air Force Band.

**Step Two:** Applicants are contacted by their local Air Force recruiter who sets up an in-person prescreen interview to determine the applicant's eligibility to enlist in the U.S. Air Force.

**Step Three:** Applicants who pass the initial prescreening are invited to a live audition. They are asked to perform various prepared compositions and to demonstrate outstanding ensemble skills and music theory knowledge. Note: Those invited to the audition travel at their own expense.

#### What happens if I win the audition?

If you are found musically qualified and are the best candidate, you will be offered a position with one of our Air Force bands. Normally, the position will be with the Air Force band you audition for, however we do offer positions with other Air Force bands if additional vacancies are available.

## JOINING THE AIR FORCE

### Where do I start?

When you accept a position with an Air Force band, you will be given an Air Force Form 485, *Application for Enlistment in an Air Force Band*, which allows you to begin the enlistment process and join the Air Force. Simply take the form to your local recruiter who will guide you through the enlistment process. You must take and pass the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (a skills assessment test) and complete a physical exam. The enlistment process is completed at your local Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) where you will sign an enlistment contract. After enlisting, you will go directly to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas, to complete Basic Military Training.

### Does every Air Force band musician have to go through basic training?

Yes, basic training is a requirement for every Air Force musician.

### What is Basic Training like and how long is it?

Basic training is an initial 8 1/2 week course at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. While in basic training, you'll learn standard military drill and ceremonies, Air Force history, customs and courtesies, and will participate in daily physical fitness exercises. For more details, go to: <http://www.basictraining.af.mil/questions/index.asp>

### Do Air Force musicians attend a technical school after basic training?

No. While in basic training, all enlisted musicians are assigned to the 737th Training Group Drum and Bugle Corps flight for initial skills qualification. After basic training, Airman musicians report directly to their assigned unit.

### Assuming I'm going into the Air Force in another career field, can I audition for an Air Force band while in basic training?

No. However, you can apply to audition for the band career field when a vacancy becomes available and your service requirements have been met. As with other applicants, you must submit required audition materials and pass a live audition. Once qualified for entrance into the band career field, you would apply for retraining status. Normal military service requirements apply: A first-term Airman (four-year enlistment contract) assigned to a stateside base is eligible to apply for retraining after he or she has completed 35 months (no more than 43 months) of military service. Six-year enlistees may apply to re-train after completing 59 months of military service.

### How and when will I know which band I'm assigned to?

As a general rule, you'll know which band you'll be assigned to before you enlist, usually the same day as your audition. Musicians are rarely diverted from that initial assignment.

### After Basic Training, what happens?

When you graduate from Basic Military Training, you will be immediately assigned to an Air Force band unit. You are allotted a specific number of travel days to move from your home of record to your new duty station.

### Where can I find information about joining the Air Force?

The Air Force has a comprehensive Website - [www.AirForce.com](http://www.AirForce.com) - that provides a great deal of information about joining the Air Force. Additionally, your local Air Force recruiter will answer all of your questions about the benefits of joining the Air Force. To find your local recruiter, call (800) 423-USAF

## SCHEDULE

### What is a normal day like for an Air Force Musician?

Each band is unique in its scheduling and has different rehearsal/performance requirements that change on a weekly basis according to the mission. Band units frequently perform on evenings and weekends, and compensatory days off are often given on weekdays. For example, if a performance tour goes over a weekend, days off may be scheduled on weekdays following the return. The band schedule typically includes the same number of days off enjoyed by the rest of the Air Force.

As military bands are a traditional part of American patriotic celebrations, you should expect to work on major

holidays such as Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

A typical non-performance day consists of rehearsals and administrative duties.

### **Will I have any non-musical duties?**

Air Force bands are self-contained organizations, meaning its people must perform a variety of non-musical duties to ensure the smooth day-to-day functioning of the unit. These duties may range from performing simple clerical work to coordinating and managing the activities of an entire unit.

Music Library: Organize and distribute music to unit ensembles

Publicity: Develop publicity materials, web site development and maintenance

Operations: Coordinate group tours and performances

Supply: Instrument purchase/repair, uniforms, supplies

Finance: Manage unit funding, purchases

Administration: Manage personnel records, awards and decorations, training, auditions

Computer Staff: Application development, network administration, software/hardware maintenance

Vehicles: Coordinate scheduling/maintain band vehicles

Load Crew: New members also serve on loading crew and are responsible for loading, unloading, setting-up and tearing down equipment before and after each performance.

### **Is the band career field a full-time job? Is it secondary to being an Airman?**

Working as an Air Force band musician is a full-time profession, not a side activity. You will be an active duty member of the United States Air Force. In wartime or peacetime, your primary duty is to perform as a musician. However, in emergency situations such as hurricanes, tornadoes or earthquakes, you might be used in the base manpower pool to assist with clean-up efforts around your base.

### **Will I deploy?**

All Air Force bands deploy. The most commonly deployed ensembles are our Rock/Popular Music Ensembles. Deployments generally last about 90 days. During that time, Airman musicians bolster troop morale, build partnerships, and strengthen relationships with host nation communities through musical performances. While deployed, Air Force bands are not assigned non-musical tasks. Air Force bands deploy up to 10 members at a time on a rotational schedule. Once a band has deployed, generally it will not deploy again for at least 36 months.

## **PROFESSIONAL LIFE**

### **What kind of musical ensembles will I typically perform with?**

Most musicians usually perform in two or more ensembles

Flute, clarinet, oboe, and bassoon: Woodwind quintet and/or clarinet quartet along with concert band and ceremonial band.

Saxophone: Jazz band or a pop music combo along with concert band and ceremonial/marching band.

French horn: Concert band and woodwind quintet or brass quintet as well as ceremonial/marching band.

Tuba and euphonium: Brass quintet or low brass ensemble, concert band, and ceremonial/marching band.

Trumpet and trombone: Jazz band, pop music combo or brass quintet along with concert band and ceremonial/marching band.

Rhythm section: (percussionists, pianists, guitarists, bassists) Rock/pop music ensemble or jazz band as well as protocol combos and/or concert band. Percussionists are essential in the ceremonial/marching band and along with pianists, may assist in chamber ensembles, brass, or woodwind quintets.

Vocalist: Rock/pop music ensemble or jazz band as well as protocol combos and/or concert band. They may also perform solo anthems and augment protocol combos, chamber winds, and ceremonial bands.

Audio engineers: May augment a group occasionally, depending on their skill, but are not typically tasked to play an instrument.

### **Where does the band perform?**

Each Air Force Band is assigned a geographical area of responsibility or "region" for performing. For instance, the USAF Band of the West performs in a region that includes Texas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Bands typically perform within their geographic area of responsibility but occasionally travel outside this area to meet special Air Force priorities or community relations requirements.

### **What are the performance venues like?**

Performances take place in a wide variety of settings to include concert halls, public school or civic auditoriums, gymnasiums, field houses, outdoor concert venues, stadiums, and festivals.

### **What type of audience does the band play for?**

Air Force Bands perform for military and civilian audiences around the world in support of official military, recruiting, and community outreach events. In a ceremonial capacity, bands perform for military functions, funeral honors, ceremonies, and troop support events. Outreach events may include public concerts, school assemblies, master classes, recitals, and special youth programs.

### **How many performances do bands give per year?**

On average, each Air Force band performs over 400 programs annually for military, recruiting, and outreach events. This number includes the total of all unit performances, from soloists to massed ensembles.

## **PAY AND BENEFITS**

### **How much is the salary and other allowances?**

Basic Pay: Regional band members who have satisfactorily completed at least 45 semester hours or 67 quarter hours of college credit are awarded the rank of Airmen First Class (E-3 pay grade) after graduating from basic training. Pay and allotments increase as tenure and cost-of-living increases. For specific rates, click on the following link:  
<http://www.airforce.com/benefits/enlisted-pay/?m=2012easearch&pl=google&med=cpc>

In addition to basic pay, members earn a non-taxable basic allowance for housing and basic allowance for sustenance.

Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH): The Air Force ensures the basic needs of every Airman are taken care of. Off-base residents receive a monthly tax-free housing allowance to help defray living expenses. On-base residents have their living expenses paid in full, to include utility bills and maintenance. BAH is calculated based on the location to which you are assigned. To calculate your BAH, go to the following website:  
<http://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bah.cfm>

Subsistence (Food) Allowance (BAS): Airmen also receive tax free food allowances called Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS). Rates adjust annually according to cost of living averages.

Uniform Allowance: Airmen receive an annual tax-free clothing allowance to replace uniform items.

Travel Expenses: When traveling for job-related reasons (otherwise known as temporary duty [TDY] away from your home base), you'll receive additional tax-free money to cover your meals, lodging, and other incidental expenses.

#### **Are Health care and life insurance available?**

All members of the U.S. Armed Forces are automatically enrolled in TRICARE - the Department of Defense's health care program for active duty personnel, retirees, and their families. Through TRICARE, military members receive FREE, comprehensive medical and dental care. Family members may also be enrolled in TRICARE and receive medical care at military or civilian facilities through various options for little or no cost. Inexpensive dental care programs may be purchased for family members as well.

Members are not charged leave for sick days, and with doctor authorization, will receive as many as necessary to return to full health.

Service Member's Group Life Insurance, or SGLI, is a low cost group life insurance plan for service members. SGLI coverage is available in increments of \$50,000 to a maximum of \$400,000. For example, for only \$29 per month, members may purchase life insurance coverage of \$400,000.

#### **Is there a pension or retirement program?**

The Air Force provides a 20-year retirement program for its members. After serving 20 years, members will receive 50% percent of their basic pay in retirement compensation. This amount increases each year by 2.5%, and after 30 years of service, members will receive 75% of their basic pay in retirement compensation. Retirement income is adjusted each year to compensate for increases in the cost of living.

The federal Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) allows participants to place a portion of their monthly pay into an account similar to a 401(k) investment plan. The contributions are considered pretax dollars and therefore reduce the amount of income subject to tax, and the accounts grow tax-free. Enrollment is available when members first join the military and anytime thereafter. Unlike traditional military retirement, which requires a commitment of at least 20 years of active duty, money invested in the TSP belongs to individual members, no matter how many years they serve. Income contributed to the TSP is not taxed until withdrawn from the account. Withdrawal before age 59-1/2 may be subject to penalty; however, the TSP account can be rolled over into an IRA or another employer's retirement account.

#### **Can I shop at the base commissary and exchange?**

Members and their families are permitted to shop at military commissaries (grocery stores), base exchanges (department stores) and service stations. These facilities offer tax-free shopping and a savings of about 30% over similar off-base stores. Additionally, recreational facilities and skills shops are available at a significant cost savings.

## **EDUCATION**

#### **Are there opportunities for continued education?**

Yes. The Air Force encourages its members to seek continued development in their area of expertise. For the first few years, band members undergo extensive on-the-job training (OJT) to develop their performance and administrative skills. Part of this training may include private instruction and participation in professional workshops or conferences. In addition, members can take advantage of the following education incentives:

Tuition Assistance: The Air Force Tuition Assistance (TA) program is designed to help active-duty personnel pursue voluntary, off-duty educational opportunities. Currently, the program pays 100% (up to \$250 per semester hour or equivalent) of the cost of college tuition with a limit of \$4500 per fiscal year. Courses and degree programs may be academic or technical and can be taken from two- or four-year institutions on base, off base or by correspondence.

Post-9/11 GI Bill: Post-9/11 GI Bill offers increased education benefits to veterans who served on or after 11 Sep 01. Benefits are based on aggregate, honorable service, and include college tuition (up to a certain amount), a monthly housing stipend and an annual books/supplies stipend. Active duty and distance learning students may receive a pro-rated benefit. Eligible active duty service members and Selected Reserve may choose to transfer benefits to DEERS-registered dependents, but stipulations apply and require eligibility determination by Service component.



Everyone with at least 90 aggregate, active duty days of honorable service on or after 11 Sep 01 is eligible for benefits under the new GI Bill. For full benefits, a member must have served at least 36 months active duty on or after 11 Sep 01. Reserve and National Guard members with 3 years of aggregate, active duty service on or after 11 Sep 01 can also qualify for full GI Bill benefits. Eligibility stipulations and benefit details are available at base education offices and at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.